

## Message Text

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67

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 SCCT-01 NIC-01 EUR-12

IO-10 /085 W

----- 077354

R 271403Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2788

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 737

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, EG, JO, LE

SUBJ: ARAB QUADRIpartite MEETING IN DAMASCUS

REF: A. DAMASCUS 682; B. BEIRUT 2529; C. AMMAN 1435

1. AS WE STATED RECENTLY IN DAMASCUS 682, THRUST OF CURRENT SYRIAN DIPLOMACY IS TO INCREASE ARAB PRESSURE ON EGYPT TO "MAINTAIN UNITY OF ARAB RANKS," I.E., TO ENSURE SYRIAN AND PALESTINIAN INTERESTS ARE NOT OVERLOOKED. AS SYRIANS PERCEIVE IT, ONE OF THE THORNIEST PROBLEMS, NEEDING EVERYONES' URGENT ATTENTION, IS THE AMMAN-PLO RELATIONSHIP.

2. I UNDERSTAND PRIMMIN ZAID RIFAI IS EXPECTED IN DAMASCUS ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT MARCH 1 WITH ARAB LEAGUE SEC GEN RIAD ARRIVING TWO DAYS LATER. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD ME FEB 26 HE HAD NO WORD THAT FONMIN FAHMI WOULD ARRIVE HERE NEXT WEEK. THUS AS OF NOW IT UNCLEAR WHETHER SYRIANS WILL BE ABLE ASSEMBLE QUADRIpartite PARTICIPANTS. THEY MAY HAVE TO SETTLE  
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FOR YET ONE MORE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO MEET, THIS

TIME ENLISTING THE MORAL SUPPORT OF SEC GEN RIAD.

3. COMMENT: ONE SIDELIGHT ON SYRIAN THOUGHT PROCESSES, AT LEAST AS DESCRIBED BY KHADDAM TO AN ARAB AMBASSADOR HERE RECENTLY, IS THAT SYRIAN DIPLOMACY IS WORKING PARTICULARLY IN JORDAN'S INTERESTS BY TRYING TO RECONCILE JORDAN AND PLO DIFFERENCES. AMONG THE CONFRONTATION STATES, SYRIA SEES ITSELF AS THE MOST FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE STATUS OF THE PLO AS "SOLE REPRESENTATIVE" OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. ASAD'S FEB 26 SPEECH TO THE SYRIAN STUDENTS' FEDERATION REAFFIRMED THIS SUPPORT IN THE MOST VIGOROUS TERMS. HOWEVER, ASAD HAS ALSO MADE STEADY EFFORTS TO KEEP JORDAN INFORMED OF HIS STRATEGY AND TACTICS. WHENEVER THE SUBJECT HAS COME UP WITH VISITORS ASAD HAS CONSISTENTLY REAFFIRMED HIS SUPPORT FOR HUSSEIN AS CHIEF OF STATE OF THE EAST BANK. MURPHY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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